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Comments by newly appointed interim Health Department commissioner troubling

Statement of Alderman Michael J. Murphy February 9, 2018

On a local radio show this week, newly appointed interim Health Department commissioner Dr. Patricia McManus stated "the science is still out" on a link between vaccines and autism. This is not true and it is a very troubling view from someone who has just been entrusted with the public health of our city and the future lives of untold thousands of children.

Our top public health official should be an advocate for the best public health practices and with the goal of ensuring the good health of all of Milwaukee's children.

This is the very reason why I asked for her nomination to be taken up in a public confirmation hearing before the Common Council could take final action on her appointment. Anyone who watched Tuesday's Council meeting knows that I feel strongly on this issue and it's why I pushed for a public process for this important appointment.

In the future I believe we must resist the pressure to act quickly and instead allow a candidate's views to be vetted thoroughly in a public process.



